

Kusanos' solution to problems associated with producing blends of thermoplastics, oil and SBC is to process the components by mixing SBC of particular density with oil and the thermoplastic. The test for obviousness is what would occur to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention when viewing the combination of references. In the instant case the primary references disclose blends of PPE and SBC which may contain oil (paragraph 211 and numerous other places) while the secondary reference discloses a process for overcoming known problems in producing blends of thermoplastics and SBC, the solution being use of Kusanos' SBC of specific density with oil. Therefore, those of ordinary skill would have been motivated to use the SBC of Kusano in Nakagawa to avoid the problems associated with producing SBC/thermoplastic compositions containing oil. Applicants appear to argue that feeding an SBC of 0.15-0.25 g/cc density to an extruder is not the same as adding oil to an SBC of 0.15-0.25 g/cc density and then adding the result to an extruder. However, applicants own specification, despite requiring the feeding an SBC of 0.15-0.25 g/cc density to an extruder (note applicants' abstract) disclose that oil may be mixed in advance (paragraph 99 of applicants published specification) and clearly applicants limitation that the hydrogenated block copolymer fed to the extruder has a density of 0.15-0.25g/cc is met even when adding oil to the SBC in advance notwithstanding applicants allegation that the density of the SBC may change when adding oil in advance. Applicants argue that Kusano does not disclose that SBC can be used with any thermoplastic resin. However, Kusano specifically uses the term "thermoplastic" and refers to specific species of such only as "examples" of thermoplastics. Those skilled in the art would

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assume that the benefits disclosed by Kusano would extend to any composition with blends of SBC/thermoplastic and oil. The density of Kusanos' crumbs in Example 1 is 0.23 at column 10, line 21-22, within the metes and bounds of the claims.

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